

**Backlog Reserved Vacancies**

2327. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the total backlog of reserved vacancies in different cadres' posts in his Ministry;
- (b) the total number of posts filled up during the last five years and till date; and
- (c) the time by which the above vacant posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

**Increase in Import and Exports due to Removal of Restrictions**

2328. SHRI CHO S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the steps towards globalization and removal of import restrictions on various items including raw material and consumer goods, has affected the local manufacturing units;
- (b) if so, what steps are being taken to protect them;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that imports *vis-a-vis* exports are steadily increasing due to the removal of restriction; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) India has been following a consistent policy for gradual removal of restrictions on imports since 1991. Apprehensions have been expressed regarding the likely adverse impact of this removal on domestic producers.

However, Government is absolutely determined to ensure